(c) whether in several cases the PF authorities could not make the payment of pension to its subscribers even after the subscribers' attaining the prescribed age of 58 years; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to see that pension is disbursed to those subscribers who have attained the age limit of 58 years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 96,322 (As on 29.11.96).

(c) and (d) According to the EPF Organisation, no case about non-payment of pension to subscribers, who are entitled to pension under the Scheme on attaining the age of 58 years, has been reported.

Non-Plan loan for disbursement of salaries etc. to the employees of TAFCO

2423. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of non-plan loan for disbursement of salaries, wages and bonus granted in the past five years for the employees of TAFCO;

(b) the amount of interest along with its rate charged on this account in the books of the company;

(c) whether Government have considered to expand equity base of the company though the company assets are substantially of higher value;

(d) whether Government would take immediate steps to protect the company and allow it to perform well according to commercially acceptable principles; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A total amount of Rs. 3,013.15 lakhs was released to TAFCO as non-plan loan during the past five years (from 1991-92 to 1995-96) for disbursement of salaries, wages, bonus etc. to the employees as well as other urgent requirements.

(b) The non-plan funds released carried interest at the prevalent rate ranging from 18 to 19.5% p.a. with a provision of additional 2.75% as penal interest in case of default in timely repayment of the instalments,

(c) to (e) Various options for revival of the company were considered during the past few years. The company was referred to BIFR during February, 1992 and after considering various possibilities for its revival, BIFR came to the conclusion that the company was not likely to become viable in future and it was just and equitable to wind-up the company. BIFR's final recommendations are now pending before the Allahabad High Court.

Infrequent publication of SIA Newsletter and Statistics

2424. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SIA Newsletter and SIA Statistics being published has now become irregular and infrequent;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to see that the issues come out regularly;

(c) whether such issues will be sent to Members of Parliament who are interested in this; and

(d) whether more steps will be taken to keep the statistical updates informed to the concerned forums?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) SIA Newsletter/SIA Statistics is published every month and copies are sent to Parliament Library regularly. The SIA newsletter is brought out after receiving data from the RBI.

The Newsletter is supplied on written request and names of such persons/organisation is included in the mailing list.